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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **CELLFACTORS PLC** [GB/GB]; Babraham Hall, Babraham, Cambridge CB2 4AT (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **PHILLIPS, Ian** [GB/GB]; Oral Pathology, School of Clinical Dentistry, Claremont Crescent, Sheffield S10 2TA (GB). **GANGEMI, Lavinia** [IT/GB]; Oral Pathology, School of Clinical Dentistry, Claremont Crescent, Sheffield S10 2TA (GB). **KIBRIA, Mohamed, Kiron** [IN/GB]; Oral Pathology, School of Clinical Dentistry, Claremont Crescent, Sheffield S10 2TA (GB). **STRINGER, Bradley** [AU/GB]; Oral Pathology, School of Clinical Dentistry, Claremont Crescent, Sheffield S10 2TA (GB). **WEST, William** [GB/GB]; Cellfactors Plc, Imperial House, Imperial Science Park, Imperial Way, Newport NP10 8UH (GB). **PANDYA, Anant** [GB/GB]; 35 Grimwade Avenue, Croydon CR0 5DJ (GB). **SIEPLE, Christine** [DE/GB]; Biomedical Research Consulting Ltd, Leeplace House, Leeplace, Pulborough RH20 1DF (GB).

(74) Agent: **DAVIES, Jonathan, Mark**; Reddie & Grose, 16 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PL (GB).

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(54) Title: IRRADIATED OSTEOINDUCTIVE EXTRACELLULAR MATERIAL

(57) Abstract: Extracellular material obtained from skeletal cells may be used in the stimulation of new bone production. The active extracellular material may be derived from cultures of immortalised hypertrophic chondrocyte-like cells. The invention provides a method for producing osseoinductive extracellular material from skeletal cells which method comprises or consists of the steps of: (1) culturing skeletal cells in a suitable culture medium; (2) harvesting extracellular material produced by said cultured cells; and optionally isolating and/or purifying said harvested material; (3) lyophilyzing said material; and (4) irradiating said material with gamma radiation. The invention also provides a method of treating of patient (human or other animal) requiring bone repair/regeneration, which involves administering to said patient an osseoinductive amount of said material.

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